GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS AND CLIMATE CHANGE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3785
ANSWERED ON:22.12.2015
Pollution Impact on Historical Monuments
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Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the historical monuments are being adversely affected due to increase in pollution level in the country;
(b) if so, the details thereof; and
(c) the steps taken by the Government to check the adverse effect of pollution on historical monuments and in the surroundings of historical sites?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) FOR ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

(SHRI PRAKASH JAVADEKAR)

(a) to (c)The Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) is monitoring ambient air quality in 254 cities / townsin the country including three locations namelyTajMahal, Itmad-ud-daulah and Rambagh. Many of the historical monuments are located in these 254 cities / towns.However, no specific study on the impact of the pollutant on monuments has been done by Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change / CPCB.

The Government of India was taken several steps to check the adverse effect of pollution to minimize the impact of air pollution include:
â€¢ Notification of National Ambient Air Quality Standards (2009), envisaging 12 pollutants;
â€¢ Formulation of regulations / statutes;
â€¢ Setting up of monitoring network for assessment of ambient air quality;
â€¢ Introduction of cleaner / alternate fuels like gaseous fuel (CNG, LPG), ethanol blend etc. replacing petrol and diesel;
â€¢ Promotion of public transport network of Metro, Buses, E-rickshows etc.;
â€¢ Promotion of cleaner production processes;
â€¢ Setting up Taj Trapezium Zone Authority to protect the Taj from pollution.

Taking note of the gravity of air pollution, the Government has taken some more measures as listed below:
â€¢ Launching of Clean India Mission (Swatch Bharat Abhiyan) on 2nd October, 2014;
â€¢ Formulation of draft rules for handling and management of municipal wastes including construction and demolition waste rules notified for comments of stakeholders;
â€¢ National Air Quality index launched by the Prime Minister in April, 2015 starting with 14 cities;
â€¢ Implementation of Bharat Stage IV norms in the 63 selected cities and universalization of BS-IV by 2017;
â€¢ Ministry of Road Transport and Highwayson 27.11.2015 issued two Draft Notifications issued for advancing the implementation time lines to 2019 for BS- V and 2021 for BS- VI for comments of stakeholders;
â€¢ Banning of burning of leaves, biomass, municipal solid waste in Delhi;
â€¢ Levying environment compensation charge on goods vehicles entering Delhi;
â€¢ Government is giving high priority for public partnership in lane discipline, carpooling, vehicle maintenance, pollution under control certification, action against visibly polluting vehicles etc.;
â€¢ Out of 3386 major industries, 1782 industries have installed on-line continuous (24x7) monitoring devices; others are in process of installing;
â€¢ New standards for thermal power plants have been issued for gazette notification;
â€¢ Directions under section 18(1) (b) of The Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981 being issued to enforcing agencies.
â€¢ Construction of peripheral eastern and western expressways around Delhi to divert non-destined vehicles.

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